

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 9-14, 17-20, 24-27, and 31- 48 are pending in this application, with Claims 9, 17, 18, 25, 33, and 40 being independent.

In reviewing their file, Applicants have noted that the Examiner did not place initials next to the "Other Document" (namely, Patent Abstracts of Japan, Pub. No. 07030748, January 1995) listed on the PTO-1449 form for the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 25, 2002. Since the Examiner did not cross that reference out, Applicants understand that the document was considered. However, for purposes of clarity Applicants would appreciate if the Examiner would initial next to that document and return another copy of that PTO-1449.

Claims 9-14, 17-20, 24-27, 31-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,390,003 (Yamaguchi et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 9, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of judgment means for judging whether a color image composed of received color image data is a specific image and of controlling formation of a color image according to a result of judgment in an image generating apparatus having a forgery judging function if the color image data is generated by an image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function, and controlling formation of a color image according to a result of judgement by the judging means if the color image data is generated by an image generating apparatus not having a forgery judging function.

In other words, the apparatus of Claim 9 can receive color image data from either an image generating apparatus that has a forgery judging function or an image generating apparatus not having a forgery judging function. If the color image data is received from an image generating apparatus having a forgery judging function, control of image formation is performed according to a result of judgment in the image generating apparatus, whereas if the image data is received from an image generating apparatus not having a forgery judging function, image formation is performed according to a result of judgment by a judgment means in the apparatus that received the image data. In this way, images can be effectively processed regardless of whether the apparatus they are received from has a forgery judging function. Claim 17 is a method claim that recites similar features to Claim 9. Support for these claims can be found at least in the first disclosed embodiment.

Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claims 9 and 17. Applicants submit that the image forming apparatus in Yamaguchi et al. has a forgery judging function (see col. 10, lines 1-12). That patent merely discloses that when a target image is not a copy-prohibited image, ordinary printing is performed. However, Applicants submit that the patent does not disclose or suggest that image formation is controlled according to different judgments depending on whether the image generating apparatus has or does not have a forgery judging function.

Regarding independent Claim 18, the present invention recited in that claim includes, among others, at least the features that a first judging means is in a first apparatus inputting an image signal and a second judging means is in a second apparatus outputting the image, and the two judging means perform judgment of different specific images. With

these features, judgment of various kinds of specific images can be effectively performed respectively by the input and output apparatuses. Claim 25 recites similar features. Support for these features can be found at least in the fourth disclosed embodiment.

Applicants submit that the cited art also fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claim 18 and 25. Yamaguchi et al. merely discloses that the image input device and the image output device respectively judge an image that is the target of copy prohibition. However, that patent does not disclose or suggest at least the feature that the input and output apparatuses perform judgment of different specific images.

Regarding independent Claim 33, the present invention recited in that claim includes, *inter alia*, the features wherein in response to an input image signal not being a specific image, the image signal is compressed and stored as an image file. Claims 47 and 48 recite similar features. Support for these features can be found at least in the seventh disclosed embodiment.

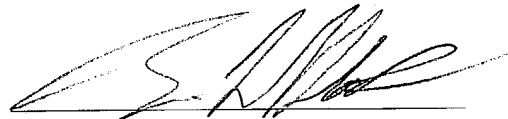
Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claims 33, 47, and 48. Yamaguchi et al. merely discloses that information (e.g., reference pattern in EEPROM) for judging a copy-prohibited image is stored (see col. 2, line 32, and col. 7, line 58). However, Applicants submit that that patent does not disclose or suggest at least the feature that, in response to an input image not being a specific image, the image signal is compressed and stored as an image file.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention recited in the independent claims is patentable over the cited art. The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, entry of this Amendment, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. L. Klock', is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
Brian L. Klock
Registration No. 36,570

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
BLK/lmj